



Sandy Spring Civic Association

www.sandyspringcivic.com

*Meeting the second Monday of each month, 6:30pm at the Ross Boddy Community Center
located on Brooke Road in Sandy Spring, Maryland*

December 17, 2019

By email, confirmation copy by first-class mail

Shannon Coyne

District Community Liaison- Prince George's County

District 3

Maryland State Highway Administration

9300 Kenilworth Avenue

Greenbelt, MD 20770

scoyne@sha.state.md.us

Re: Intersection of Route 108 and Brooke Road, Sandy Spring, MD 20860

Dear Ms. Coyne:

We are writing in response to your email dated October 16, 2019, to Marie Slater of our organization, the Sandy Spring Civic Association. In that communication, you followed up on an earlier communication stating that permanent improvements to the intersection of Route 108 and Brooke Road, Sandy Spring, Maryland, have been postponed indefinitely. You stated that "We are currently coordinating funding sources and contracts to see if we can have the metal panels taken care of in the meantime. I will be in touch late next week with more information." Your November 25, 2019 text indicated that improvements to the intersection are on hold due to limited funding, and, in the December 4, 2019 text, you stated that the entire Route 108 project is on hold due to lack of funding

While residents of Sandy Spring appreciate that metal plates have been installed, the situation at that intersection is deplorable and downright perilous, even with the metal plates in place. As you are surely aware, Route 108 is a major East-West traffic route in upper Montgomery County, and drivers attempting to turn into or exit from Brooke Road must already be extremely careful of the traffic. Added to the traffic hazards is an incredibly dangerous situation, even with the metal plates, because there is a very serious drop in the height of the pavement immediately after making the turn off of Route 108, requiring turning drivers to slow down or risk scraping the bottoms of their vehicles on pavement, and skidding on the metal pavements, which are frequently wet and slippery. Moreover, during heavy rainstorms, water ponds at that point, rendering the

situation even more dangerous. There are also many school buses (perhaps hundreds, daily) using Route 108 to serve the many public and private schools in our area. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, fire and rescue vehicles exiting the Sandy Spring Fire Station on Brooke Road must slow down significantly to turn left or right on Route 108, which is where they are almost always headed. This creates additional hazards for traffic on Route 108 and slows down emergency response when time can mean the difference between life and death.

This situation has deteriorated over many years and must be fixed immediately. At its meeting on Monday, December 9, the membership of the Sandy Spring Civic Association unanimously endorsed our sending a strong letter to you on the subject. We are copying our local State Senator, Craig Zucker, on this correspondence in hopes that his intervention can make the State Highway Administration elevate this project's priority to a point where we are no longer kept waiting.

Please feel free to contact the head of our Traffic Committee, Marie Slater, with any further questions, comments, or concerns. Her email address is dmarieslater@verizon.net.

Sincerely,



Douglas B. Farquhar
Correspondence Secretary
Sandy Spring Civic Association

cc: State Senator Craig Zucker (by email: zucker.craig@gmail.com)
Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich
Mitch Dinowitz, Fire Chief, Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Dept.